Duchene is Executive Leaders’ Speaker

When LOM executive director colleagues gather at Lutheranch in Georgia from April 23-26, 2018, they will explore the most relevant and important questions facing our work today during the “Navigating the Future” gathering. A peer learning model known as World Café (www.theworldcafe.com) will be used during this retreat. This effective tool brings together the collective experiences and knowledge of each of us to arrive at real-world solutions to make leading our ministries easier and more manageable. Our World Café “host” will be Mary Kay Duchene.

Mary Kay is an assistant to the bishop in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, and has an MA from Luther Seminary. She is an ELCA Deacon and served a large Lutheran Church in Minnesota. Mary Kay is a coach, consultant, teacher, and facilitator. She has a long career in leadership coaching and consulting in the corporate world. Called to devote her work to the church, in 2010 she brought that expertise to clergy through The SHAPE of Leadership program, which she created to accompany rostered leaders to lead in these uncertain times in the church. Today, in addition to facilitating leadership development experiences, Mary Kay serves clergy and staff teams doing one-to-one and group leadership development, team building, strategic planning, and organizational development consulting.

Providing insight for the ways our navigational challenges and opportunities will connect outdoor ministries with the ELCA’s “Called Together in Christ,” will be Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission. All of this, together with inspiring worship, uplifting music, and plenty of time for informal conversation and networking, will provide executive directors with an outstanding experience of continuing education and professional collegiality.

Registration is now live from the LOM website https://www.lomnetwork.org/event/lom-executive-directors-gathering/
In addition, feel free to contact Don Johnson director@lomnetwork.org with questions. If necessary in order to participate, financial assistance applications can be obtained from Don Johnson; please do not register until after your financial assistance application has been processed.

Members of the Steering Committee for this event: Dianna Parks, Good Earth Village (MN); Brent Seaks, Badlands (ND); Heather Eggert, Wapo (WI); Matt Kindsvatter, Lutherhill (TX); and Don Shunkwiler, Sugar Creek (WI).
Ben Jarvis to Represent LOM on New ELCA Initiative

Ben Jarvis, Director of On-Site and Bridging Borders Ministries at Rainbow Trail (CO), will represent LOM on a new initiative of the ELCA – The Young Adult Leadership Table. The Young Adult Leadership Table will convene representatives from ministries and organizations connected to the ELCA that are led by or directly involve Young Adults or Young Adult Faith Formation. This table will include folks from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Multi-Cultural Ministries, Life in Service Ministries, and others.

The purpose of the table will be to include diverse voices and unique perspectives from around the Church to help craft a vision and goals for the next five years of Young Adult Ministries in the ELCA. The table will also serve as an advisory team for ELCA Young Adult events and programming.

Ben oversees the on-site program as well as the Bridging Borders Ministries. Ben is a life-long camper and staff-member at Rainbow Trail and joined the full-time staff in Fall 2013 after graduating from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He has a great passion for the ministry of Rainbow Trail and hopes to bring that passion to others through his work at camp, and now through his seat at the ELCA Young Adult Leadership Table. You can reach Ben at: ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org

LOM Board Notes

The LOM Board of Directors met on January 18, by way of a video conference meeting. There was 100 percent attendance at this meeting. Some of the notable deliberations that took place:

- Welcomed new members Hannah Anderson and Rod Boriack. Boriack was elected by camp boards for a seat on the board.
- Reviewed a written report from executive director Don Johnson and had some extended conversation on the LOM partnership with ELCA Advocacy to have a combined presence at the Youth Gathering around the theme of Stewardship of Creation. Also discussed the results of the LOM 2017 Annual Fund.
- Voted to enter into a member relationship with the cooperative purchasing organization known as CORD.
- Discussion regarding policies and procedures for hospitality times at LOM events, especially in regard to the provision of alcoholic beverages during such times. Action tabled until the April meeting in order to provide opportunity to gather more information, especially in regard to insurance and legal ramifications.
- Received the 2017 financial report from LOM board treasurer Susan Troutman. The operating fund for 2017 was balanced because of moving $10,000 from restricted funds (the ELCA grant for financial support of compensation expenses for an executive director). Fortunately, LOM has had to access the funds from this grant at a slower rate than originally expected. The treasurer also reported that the transition from prior treasurer, Dave Jarvis, to current treasurer, Susan Troutman, concurrent with the transition from prior bookkeeper, Aurice Worley, to current bookkeeper, Kris Hinkeldey, has taken significant time and effort but has been essentially smooth and seamless.
- Reviewed and discussed the 2018 goals and travel plan of Executive Director Don Johnson.
- Had a preliminary discussion regarding the board conflict of interest policy and will follow up with ratification of a policy at the next board meeting, scheduled for April 19, 2018.
Words from Don

There’s a lot of terrific activity being planned and taking place in the LOM network these days.

- Plans are being finalized for the LOM Executive Directors Gathering, April 23-26, at Lutheranch in Tallapoosa, GA.
- Executive Directors aren’t the only ones who are gathering. For those with program responsibilities, there’s the Program Share-A-Thon at Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN, March 12-14, and the Bible Study Re-Write/Program Share-A-Thon, March 19-22, at Pine Lake Camp in Waupaca, WI.
- There’s a planning team busy at work to plan the booth at the Interactive Learning Center of the ELCA Youth Gathering in June, a cooperative project of LOM and ELCA Advocacy.
- The LOM Recognition Committee is making plans to initiate a new grant program for LOM that will be designed to provide a modest grant, awarded annually, to an outdoor ministry organization that has plans for a diversity initiative.
- The LOM committee that has been known as the Education Committee will now be the LOM LTE Planning Committee and will be focused solely on the annual signature educational event of LOM – the Leadership Training Event. A new committee is being organized and will be the one that is now known as the LOM Education Committee. It will be a "big picture" visioning group that will be guiding the LOM development of educational opportunities in response to needs as they emerge. These people have accepted the invitation of the LOM Board to serve on this new committee: Hans Wiersma, Augsburg College; Jessica Pina, Outreach Director, Cross Trails (TX); Jeff Barrow, Interim Executive Director, Amnicon (WI); Dana Isaacson, Program Director, Shetek (MN); Heather Lutz, Board Member, Caroline Furnace (VA); Gretchen Bachman, Director of Operations, Voyageurs (MN); and liaison from the LOM Board – Jake Sorenson.

I’m looking forward to seeing you, or at least being in contact with you, during the days ahead. And for all of you who are in the midst of recruiting and hiring staff for your summer programs, here’s wishing you success in all that you are doing to have the best possible people represent your outdoor ministry.

Don Johnson, LOM Executive Director

Check out Discount Programs

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) has partnered with three other denominations to provide special members-only pricing on products used by our camps and retreat centers. You can receive the specifics of these special deals on our website at https://www.lomnetwork.org/partners/vendor-discounts/. Instructions are also there on obtaining the discount codes. Many more discounts will be added to the list, so please check the LOM website for updates.

Submit Your Journeys

Have you set your adventure camps and servant trips for 2019? If so, please submit them for LOM’s Journeys for Youth website. We’d like to list these camps by May 1, 2018. For more information about the website and to submit, go to http://journeys.lomnetwork.org/about/.
Conservation Easement Signed for Waypost Camp on Mission Lake

North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT) has partnered with Crossways Camping Ministries’ Waypost Camp to protect 88 acres and over half the shoreline of beautiful Mission Lake in southeastern Marathon County. Crossways Camping Ministries is an LOM ministry based in northeastern Wisconsin that operates three outdoor ministry sites: Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, Pine Lake Camp in Waupaca, and Waypost Camp in Hatley, as well as a traveling day camp ministry.

On December 11, 2017, a conservation easement was signed that will forever protect a cedar swamp, bogs, and forested knolls that once were a summer home to indigenous peoples. The oak and pine-clad highlands hold a magnificent view across the lake. Tall hemlocks and wetlands line the shore, and diverse aquatic plant communities provide habitat for a robust fishery.

In 2017, NCCT applied for and received state funding through the DNR’s Lake Protection Grant program and from Marathon County’s Environmental Impact Fund. These grants funded the cost of a conservation easement on Waypost Camp. The project has had strong and vigorous support from the DNR, Marathon County, the State Historical Society, the Town of Reid, and adjacent landowners.

A lakeshore with mostly undisturbed, native vegetation is a rare thing, given the significant development pressures on Wisconsin’s lakes. There are only five riparian property owners on the lake including the Waypost Camp and Mission Lake County Park, which provides public access and many other amenities.

The completion of a conservation easement on the Waypost Camp property will accomplish many things: In addition to preventing development and fragmentation around Mission Lake, it will protect wildlife habitat and scenic beauty, better protect water quality, and promote lakeshore and archaeological conservation via education. Public events will take place annually at the camp.

The conservation easement also will preserve and protect archaeological resources, as the entire Camp property is designated an archaeological site by the Wisconsin State Historical Society. In spring 2016 an archaeological study confirmed reported Native American Burial Mounds and artifacts of a Native American summer encampment. The Waypost property has played a key role in protecting the unique resources of Mission Lake for 75 years and can now continue to do so indefinitely thanks to this easement.
Who is Outdoor Ministries Connection (OMC)?
OMC is a consortium of mainline denominational camp and retreat associations. The current associations that are participating, but will not be limited to: American Baptist, Episcopal Conference Centers and Camps, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Presbyterian Camps & Conference Center Association, Outdoor Ministry Association of the Church of the Brethren, Outdoor Ministry Association of the United Church of Christ, United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries

OMC Purpose:
Outdoor Ministries Connection provides open space for developing ecumenical relationships and shared perspective while coordinating collaborative efforts among our associations.

The BIG idea is to gather all the mainline denominational camp and retreat associations for one large conference. In a time of denominational decline, super fast technological innovation and a reorganizing of institutions into individualized networks - we are experiencing a shift of culture. Outdoor Ministries absolutely can be a force in molding how God’s people journey into the future. We will be stronger together sharing best practices and supporting each other in networks that support each other.

NOTE: LOM is engaged in the planning of this event and has a strong voice in the process.
The EVENT:
RelationSHIFT - Nov. 10-14, 2019 at Lake Junaluska, Waynesville, NC
One God. One Trust. One People. As the people of God we have one true goal in our work as Outdoor Ministry sites - assist others to walk in loving ways with God. It is our calling. Yet often we travel this road alone. God never intended it that way. We have common ground to stand on together. As our society and churches shift around us, Outdoor Ministries must find new ways to collaborate in our nurture of fellow disciples on their journeys. We are stronger together in this mission as God’s people. Come and join us for an event that will help you form new relationships and shift towards collaboration. With authentic and passionate keynote speakers, inspiring worship with creative preachers and engaging workshops that will leave you with lots of practical ideas, this event is like no continuing education conference you have attended.

Why it is important?
This event will bring together innovative outdoor ministry partners of mainline denominations (600-800 people) to build relationships, discover each other’s gifts, and equip vital ministries to meet the emerging needs of God’s people.

When & Where?
November 10-14, 2019
Lake Junaluska (UMCRM retreat center), Waynesville, NC

Please consider serving on one of the committees for this first of its kind ecumenical event. The following pages explain the committee responsibilities. If you have questions please talk with those who invited you to consider this opportunity or contact one of us.

Elise Bates Russell, Co-Chair, elise@campjburg.org
Nathan Pile, Co-Chair, nathanpile@mac.com, 814-629-6627
Innovative Program: Voyageur Day Camp

This is one of the programs nominated for LOM’s Innovative Program Award last year.

In 2012, Buddy decided that he could no longer go to camp. He had been a longtime camper at Camp Metigoshe (ND), attending the camp for almost 30 years! But his age and how exhausting a week of camp had become for him made me mutter, “I’m too old, I’m too old,” when he left camp that summer. Unfortunately, camp was no longer an option for him.

For over thirty years, Metigoshe has been offering week-long programs for teens and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Age-appropriate programming was created which allows the campers to use their abilities to grow spiritually, individually, and emotionally. Many of these campers use their vacation time to come to their second home. But, like Buddy, for many of these campers, age and physical limitations hinder their ability to take part in this program anymore.

With that in mind, Metigoshe developed a program to encompass the camp essentials in a setup that would allow for these populations to still participate in camp. They worked with Kalix, an agency in Minot, ND, which works with adults with disabilities. Together, with a longtime camp nurse, they developed a short program that was still packed with all the camp essentials like worship, Bible study, games, food, campfires, and time at their lake.

Because of the Voyageur Day Camp, Buddy (and others) were able to return to camp! He had a contagious smile upon his face the entire day he was back at camp. At the end of the day, Buddy said, “Good to be back. Good to be back!” For the staff at Metigoshe, this was a microcosm for many of the campers they had that day. They reported that another camper was brimming from ear-to-ear as they drove across the lake on a pontoon. Her staff member commented, “I have worked with her for years and never seen her smile that big for that long. She is truly in her happy place.”

Logan Gooch, former program director at Metigoshe, comment in their application that, “Many of our campers in other programs were able to do camp alongside some of our most seasoned campers. As they spent time in worship, they were getting a fuller picture of the body of Christ. Many of the counselors from our elementary aged programs running that week commented on how impactful it was for many of their campers who now had a greater perspective on individuals with disabilities.”

To read more about the Innovative Program Award and download an application, visit https://www.lomnetwork.org/awards/innovative-program-award/. Deadline for applications is in September.
ALDE offers educational options to help you grow your career and program with essentials for nonprofit leadership, fundraising, marketing, and communications.

Whether you’ve just started a new role as a fundraiser or have moved into a role where fundraising is included in your other responsibilities, enLIGHTen Essentials ([https://www.alde.org/essentials](https://www.alde.org/essentials)) can position you for success. This comprehensive course in fundraising fundamentals is both a great introduction and an efficient way to receive a broad overview of the best practices that form the foundation of development success.

With sessions that cover program development, elements of relationship building, volunteer management, operations, and accountability, enLIGHTen Essentials is a two-day program that will equip attendees with the knowledge and resources needed to thrive. The intentionally small cohort fosters in-depth discussions and opportunities for shared learning from both presenters and mentors. Mentoring is built into the program from the outset and continues for six months, providing ongoing support and expertise to ensure participants are on track for future professional growth and success.

Are you a new nonprofit leader who could benefit from an overview of fundraising from the top? Do you know your organization needs to raise money, but aren’t certain what your role is? Wondering how to set revenue goals or what kind of staffing you might need? Feeling uncertain about your board’s role in fundraising? Executive Fundraising Essentials ([https://www.alde.org/efe](https://www.alde.org/efe)) will address these questions, as well as other topics to help you understand both the why and how of fundraising.

From basic structural frameworks to insights about why donors give, this one day course will prepare you to lead and engage in the fundraising efforts of your organization. In addition to the program curriculum, you’ll also have the option of working with a mentor who has experience in the CEO/President/Executive Director role and can provide guidance to you during the program and after you return home. You can bring your challenges and work through them in a supportive setting with an expert. The highly interactive format provides ample opportunity to ask questions and to benefit from the collective knowledge base of presenters, mentors, and other attendees.

ALDE inspires, educates, and mentors the Christian fundraising community to spark generosity for mission. We are an international community of fundraising and communication professionals rooted in the Lutheran tradition of the Christian faith and dedicated to serving God’s people in the church and the world. Learn more at [www.alde.org](http://www.alde.org).
Cord is excited to partner with the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM). With the support of the LOM Board and through your participation, CORD will donate a ½% rebate based on LOM reported vendor sales through the CORD program.

We’ve helped hundreds of camp ministries like you save in areas of food, facilities and equipment. We offer immediate cost reduction in every area of spending with national account pricing through CORD partners such as entegra, Sysco, Gordon Food Service, Edward Don, Sherwin Williams, Office Depot, Mity-Lite, Grainger, SupplyWorks and Ferrellgas, just to name a few.

For over 25 years, CORD has helped ministries save 16%-40% on quality products, services and food leveraging this simple concept - Strength in Numbers. By bringing together the purchasing resources of ministries across the country, we’ve negotiated the best possible pricing on products and services common to all ministries. No longer are you viewed as an individual property making purchases. Vendors now see you as part of a $10 Billion buying power. As CORD’s membership grows, so does our ability to negotiate better pricing... every ministry matters!

What does it cost to join CORD? There is no cost, no catch, no sign-up fees and no contracts. In fact, it cost NOT to join. Once the connection process is complete, you will continue to purchase directly through each vendor.

I will be more than happy to meet with you and your staff to discuss all the possible ways we can help your ministry save money and will gladly perform a cost analysis at your request.

Jeff Acks
Regional Director, Midwest
jacks@cordonline.com
Cell (630) 217-3844
Fax (817) 887-1885
www.cordonline.com

Save more, so you can do more!

(Click map to watch a short video)
Help Promote the 2018 LOM Curriculum "This Changes Everything"

The LOM Curriculum Committee would like to ask for your help in spreading the news to the congregations in your area about the 2018 LOM Curriculum, "This Changes Everything." Please take a moment out of your day and share the following information to some congregations who support your ministry. LOM has a VBS bundle that we believe could be very useful to many congregations, but we need your help to get the word out! All you have to copy the following and share it! You can even cut and paste from our website at https://wp.me/p8d42C-OJ.

***Here is wording for you to send to congregations***

As a supporter of our camp, you know about our ministry, but you may not know that we are a part of a larger organization called Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, or LOM. LOM is an organization that exists to empower and equip outdoor ministry organizations, and one of the ways that they do that is by producing an outdoor curriculum each year.

Now, the same easy to use and theologically strong curriculum is available for congregations to use for Vacation Bible School. LOM’s 2018 theme, This Changes Everything, will help campers learn how God’s grace changes these things and how we can work with others to show that grace to the world. This curriculum has the same title as the theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. It has been written in collaboration with the gathering team. The lessons are not the same but compliment those that will be used for the gathering.

LOM's VBS package includes all you need to run your own Vacation Bible School program: 5 full days of Bible Study designed for lower and upper elementary students, crafts, games and the This Changes Everything graphics. Priced at only $100, your congregation gets the tools that you need to help the children in your community engage with the Bible and their faith. This theme, as well as others, are available on the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries website at www.lomnetwork.org.

SUPPORT LOM

To make a gift to LOM, visit http://www.lomnetwork.org/donate.html. If you would like to explore the possibility of including LOM in your will or other planned giving strategies, please contact Executive Director Don Johnson at director@lomnetwork.org or 603-848-9904.

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Don Johnson, Executive Director
Casey Fuerst, Board President